

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 IO-13 ACDA-12 /101 W
-----127723 021327Z /40

R 301822Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9843
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL HAMBURG
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 12124

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, PDIP, GW, CH
SUBJECT: FRG/PRC RELATIONS: OPENING OF CONSULATE IN
HAMBURG AND SHANGHAI

REFS: A) BONN 7350; B) HAMBURG 471; C) BONN 0732
(NOTAL)

1.SUMMARY THE PRC IS REPORTEDLY STILL PRESSING FOR APPROVAL TO
OPEN A CONSULATE IN HAMBURG (SEE REFTELS) IN RETURN FOR
PERMISSION FOR AN FRG POST IN SHANGHAI. THE FOREIGN
OFFICE, WHICH HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN INCLINED TO DEFER
OPENING ANOTHER POST IN THE PRC, WILL NOW LINK THE TWO
OPENINGS. IT IS LIKELY THAT THE CHINESE WILL NOT
GET APPROVAL FOR HAMBURG UNTIL ARRANGEMENTS FOR A
SHANGHAI MISSION MEET FRG REQUIREMENTS. END SUMMARY

2. ACCORDING TO OUR FOREIGN OFFICE CONTACTS,
THE FRG HAS NO PROBLEM IN PRINCIPLE WITH A PRC CONSULATE
IN HAMBURG. HOWEVER, IT FEARS THAT GIVING THE GO-AHEAD
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FOR THE CHINESE WITHOUT FIRST MAKING NECESSARY
ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE FRG CONSULATE IN SHANGHAI WOULD
BE A MISTAKE, STRIPPING THE FRG OF NECESSARY LEVERAGE.
THE FRG HAS TWO MAJOR REQUIREMENTS: 1) THAT SATISFACTORY
FACILITIES (CONSULATE BUILDING AND LIVING QUARTERS) MUST
BE OFFERED IN SHANGHAI; AND 2) THAT THE SHANGHAI
CONSULAR DISTRICT MUST EXTEND BEYOND SHANGHAI CITY

LIMITS. FINDING ACCEPTABLE ACCOMMODATIONS SHOULD POSE LITTLE PROBLEM, BUT THE CHINESE ARGUE THAT THEY ARE INTERESTED ONLY IN HAMBURG AND THAT SHANGHAI PROPER IS AN APPROPRIATE TRADE.

3. OUR CONTACTS TELL US THAT UNLESS THE CHINESE ARE WILLING TO GIVE IN, PROGRESS IS UNLIKELY. THE ISSUE

OF THE SIZE OF THE CONSULAR DISTRICT IS IMPORTANT TO THE FRG SINCE IT IS CURRENTLY INVOLVED IN SIMILAR NEGOTIATIONS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES. (ONE EXAMPLE IS THE CASE OF RUMANIA WHERE NEGOTIATIONS HAVE BEEN STALLED FOR SEVEN YEARS OVER THE RUMANIAN REFUSAL TO GIVE A PROSPECTIVE FRG CONSULATE IN THE REGION INHABITED BY ETHNIC GERMANS (SIBIU) AN ADEQUATE CONSULAR DISTRICT IN RETURN FOR FRG PERMISSION TO OPEN A CONSULATE IN MUNICH. SEE REFTEL C.)

4. COMMENT. AS IS THEIR USUAL PRACTICE IN DEALING WITH THE FRG, THE PRC IS APPROACHING THE PROBLEM ON TWO LEVELS. OFFICIALLY, IT IS LOBBYING WITH THE FOREIGN OFFICE FOR THE NECESSARY PERMISSION. UNOFFICIALLY, THE CHINESE ARE WORKING THROUGH THE HAMBURG SENAT AND REGIONAL NEWSPAPERS TO PROMOTE THEIR AUSE AND INDIRECTLY

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PRESSURE THE FRG. HOWEVER, GIVEN THE SENSITIVITY OF THE CHINESE QUESTION, WE EXPECT THAT ANY FRG DECISION WILL BE CAREFULLY THOUGHT-OUT AT THE SENIOR LEVELS OF THE FRG AND THAT INDIRECT PRESSURE WILL HAVE LITTLE EFFECT ON THE DECISION.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CONSULATE OPENING, CONSULATES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BONN12124
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780273-0383
Format: TEL
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978065/aaaaadsa.tel
Line Count: 100
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 2cbc5087-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 BONN 7350, 78 HAMBURG 471, 78 BONN 732
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2317549
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FRG/PRC RELATIONS: OPENING OF CONSULATE IN HAMBURG AND SHANGHAI
TAGS: PEPR, PDIP, GE, CH
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/2cbc5087-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014